

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03663 202237Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /035 W

-----067660 202241Z /62

R 191632Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS TUNIS 3663

INTERIOR FOR BUREAU OF MINES: NAHAI AND STOWASSER

DEPT ALSO PASS USAID

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: EMIN BTIO TS
SUBJ: PHOSPHATES: COMPAGNIE DES PHOSPHATES DE GAFSA

REF: TUNIS 3559

1. GAFSA PHOSPHATE COMPANY CHAIRMAN SALAH KHAMMOUMA
TOLD E/C COUNSELOR MAY 17 THAT, CONTRARY TO SOME RE-
PORTS, HE WAS SURE THAT PHOSPHATE COMPANY WOULD
ACHIEVE NEW PLAN'S TARGET OF 6.5 MILLION TONANNUAL
CAPACITY BY 1980. (SALES AND, THEREFORE, PRODUCTION WERE
ANOTHER MATTER.) HE SAID ALL FOUR NEW FLOTATION
PLANTS SHOULD BE INSTALLED BY SECOND QUARTER OF 1979
(I.E., AHEAD OF SCHEDULE). KHAMMOUMA DID ADMIT TO
SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH EXPERIMENTAL USE OF LONG-WALL
METHODS OF UNDERGROUND MINING, BUT SAID CURRENT PRODUCTION
WAS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY.

2. KHAMMOUMA SIAD HIS COMPANY WOULD SORELY NEED TECHNOLOGY
AS WELL AS EQUIPMENT--AMERICAN BEING PERHAPS
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THE BEST FOR BOTH--FOR MAJOR NEW OPEN-PIT MINE (\$40
MILLION INVESTMENT) PLANNED FOR JALLABIA FOR OPERATION
BY 1984. HE EXPECTED CALLS FOR TENDERS FOR EQUIPMENT
AND ENGINEERING ABOUT JUNE 1979.

3. KHAMMOUMA SAID HE HAD APPROVED HIS COMPANY'S
SENDING ONE RESEARCH SPECIALIST TO UNITED STATES UNDER

PROGRAM DISCUSSED IN NAHAI TO DALY LETTER OF
APRIL 11, 1978. COMPANY WILL CONFIRM DET LJLX# WRITING.

4. KHAMMOUMA SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE
LONG-TIME FRIEND STOWASSER IF LATTER VISITED TUNISIA
IN JUNE (TUNIS 3559). HE RECALLED STOWASSER OFFER
TO OBTAIN AND FORWARD INFORMATION ON FLOTATION PROCESS
FOR CALCINATED PHOSPHATES (TO REMOVE SI02) DEVELOPED
BY US FIMR--PERHAPS IMC. SAID HE WAS STILL
INTERESTED IN GETTING THIS DATA AND HIS COMPANY IS
PREPARED TO SEND SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS.
MULCAHY

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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